

DRAFT MINUTES
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
Wednesday, March 5, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
MEETING ROOM #133 – TOWN HALL, 100 POCONO ROAD

1. Convene Meeting:

Present: Chairman Matt Grimes, Secretary Stanley Parker, Dan Smolnik, Jon Van Hise, George Walker, Linda Wagner and Fred Ball

Absent: None

2. Public Comment: none

1. Follow-up discussion from meeting, 2/19/14:

• **Budget – bifurcation and process, draft language:**

Chairman M. Grimes passed out a draft of language prepared by Attorney T. Beecher. Discussion ensued about different scenarios that can take place with a bifurcation. There was discussion of what other Towns do with their budget vote. The Commission heard comments from each member on their opinion of the budget vote being split. Commissioner Walker suggested that if the bifurcation were to take place and one budget passed and another one didn't, the next time the vote takes place there should be an "information only" spot on the voting booth reminding the voter what has already passed.

• **Re-cap RE: Board of Finance:**

Chairman Grimes said he will send copies of the drafts done by the Town Attorney to the Board of Finance. There are four things they want to have feedback from the Board of Finance on: 1- Bifurcation, 2- Advisory questions, 3- having an odd number of members on Board of Finance, and 4- Commissions appointing their own alternate members.

• **Advisory question history:** Chairman Grimes passed out a paper with this information. Discussion ensued on the history of advisory questions over the past years. Three different versions of the advisory questions were handed out for review by the Commission and will also be sent to be reviewed by the Board of Finance. There was discussion as to whether the advisory questions should be put on every time and not just when the First Selectman wants them on. It was stated that if the budget doesn't pass and the advisory questions aren't there, the Town wouldn't be able to go back and ask those questions.

4. Feedback by Town Attorney T. Beecher:

5. Research assignments for 3/19/14 Meeting: Commissioner Grimes asked for volunteers from the Commission to review Charters from other Towns. There was discussion about the Board of Ethics. Commissioner Grimes said they said whatever the Board of Ethics does has to be under the guidance of the State law. He said the Brookfield's Charter speaks mostly about conflict of interest in the Ethics portion. There was discussion about the ability to enforce what's in the Ethics section and the difficulty of it.

• Change to filling Board vacancies is on the Zoning Agenda for 3/13/14 and Commissioner Grimes read the response from C. Timmerman, Chairman of Zoning Board of Appeals.

• Chairman Grimes asked for someone to research how volunteers are selected for the the Police Commission.

6. Approval of Minutes – 2/19/14: Commissioner Parker made a motion to table the Minutes of 2/19/14, motioned was seconded by Commissioner V. Hise and carried unanimously.

7. Discussion of April Schedule: Chairman Grimes asked everyone to come back on the

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19th with their availability for meetings in April. They know Thursdays are not good meeting dates for the Commission. There will be a “Special Meeting” held on April 9th.

8. Written correspondence: none

9. Additional Public Comment: none

10. Adjournment: Commissioner Ball made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Parker and carried unanimously.

*****Next Scheduled Meeting March 19, 2014*****